

Sunday, October 26 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Eric Bailey
1020 Sevier Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

October 26, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wagner
710 Ellis Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001
USA

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445 12th Street, NW
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Dear Chairman Powell,

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Sincerely,

Daryl Maddox
1209 N. Lakeview Dr
Palatine, IL 60067

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Sincerely,

Douglas MacIntyre
1507 S. Duke St.
York, PA 17403

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Michael Graham
12420 NW Barnes Rd #259
Portland, OR 97229

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Sincerely,

Debra Watanabe
200 North Village Ave, G3
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag. Serve the people, not Hollywood special interest.

Sincerely,

Aaron Peck
1633 Commerce Drive
Mankato, MN 56003

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Ryan Tabor
6019 Old Stratford Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22315

Terrell Prude', Jr.
10332 Main St. #145
Fairfax, VA 22030

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

Hello folks,

I'm writing about this "broadcast flag" that I understand will be decided upon pretty soon. I think it's a bad idea. Implementing this broadcast flag will not stop folks from violating copyrights; it will just stop honest folks who want to use Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) from watching it. As a professional systems engineer, and as someone who uses FOSS operating systems, this scares me.

I don't see the need for any sort of "broadcast flag." We don't have them on analog TV, and that hasn't stopped people from, say, going to the movies or renting videos (as Blockbuster Video's profits will gladly confirm). I don't see any "underground market" for episodes of "Friends" or "Frasier" or even "Star Trek", the latter of which in particular has a near-cult following; people typically go to Blockbuster or some online video store and buy the episodes.

The FCC has been warned numerous times by Congress, as I recall, about rubber-stamping things that some corporations put in front of you. Where is the benefit of preventing FOSS developers from writing software that allows people to watch digital TV on their computers, vs. letting only the MPAA and Microsoft do so? FOSS is the one thing keeping any sliver of "honesty", if you can call it that, in the likes of Microsoft and the MPAA. Open competition—true competition, not limited by something like this broadcast flag—is how innovation happens. You really want to stop that?

Why would you want to make it illegal for me to watch digital TV on my computer without having to install Windows?

Put a stop to this broadcast flag business, or anything else like it. It's not good for the country. The MPAA and Microsoft are not the entirety of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Terrell Prude', Jr.

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Friday, October 24 2003

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445 12th Street, NW
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Sincerely,

Frank Glindmeier
26286 Feathersound Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955

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Washington, DC 20554

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The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more appealing to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and purchasing another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can record TV to watch later; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program for later viewing. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this flexibility that I utilize and would result in less television viewing for me.

As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Allen Dundek
2091 Dayton Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

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Sincerely,

Chris Katscher
136 S Pacific St
Santa Maria, CA 93455

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Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Paul F. Barkley, Sr.
11511 North Brightway Drive
Mokena, IL 60448

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Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Richard E Willey
85 East India Row, Apartment 21B
Boston, MA 02110

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Washington, DC 20554

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Richard Coleman

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Richard Coleman
44 jefferson St.
Bangor, ME 04401

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Sincerely,

Amy Anderson
607 San Gabriel Overlook West
Georgetown, TX 78628

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Sincerely,

Eric Kanagy
1605 S. 9th St.
Goshen, IN 46526

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Sincerely,

John D McCutcheon
4445 Warren Street
Taylorsville, CA 95983

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I should point out that I'm not out on the limb where intellectual property is concerned. I don't believe that all information should be free. I produced software for a living, so copyright is my lifeblood. However, I believe that the pendulum has already swung too far in favor of the copyright holders and left the consumers with too little in terms of fair use rights. Please don't allow this to go any further.

Sincerely,

Daniel Thompson
12504 Oro Valley Trail
Austin, TX 78729

Friday, October 24 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell,

I dearly wish that the government would learn from its prior mistakes. When people in Russia have more rights to their own purchased media than we do here in the United States, we should all be ashamed. Now these same ridiculous restrictions will be applied to broadcast content as well? Despite what some at the FCC may believe, money is not freedom. Who makes the largest campaign contributions is not the issue here - basic protection of our God given right of free speech and fair use is. Freedom includes the knowledge that I won't be forced to buy substandard technology because media company money says I must. Freedom is knowing that I won't be jailed for viewing purchased or broadcast content in any way I see fit. Freedom is my first amendment right to innovate without fearing media company dictated jail time.

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

William DeLeeuw
11030 NW Reeves St.
Portland, OR 97229

Friday, October 24 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later, clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie, send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative, or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

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King Phillips
PO 3608
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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Washington, DC 20554

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Eric Hauge
200 Waters Street
Lindale, TX 75771

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Furthermore, I have hundreds of DVDs, all purchased legally. Please do not make me a criminal or make it impossible for me to store these DVDs on my computer and play them for my own enjoyment in my own home. Digital copy protection makes criminals of us all without due process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John H Greble
7 Greenshire Blvd
Schwenksville, PA 19473

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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John Suddreth
4925 E Duane Ln
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

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Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

David Modoski
41 Constantine Place, Apt.1
Summit, NJ 07901